



Colleges & Universities

Programs for The Arts

Visual Education Centre Limited

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To order please call

Visual Education Centre Limited

41 Horner Ave., Unit 3 Etobicoke, On M8Z 4X4
Tel: (416) 252-5907 Toll Free: (800) 668-0749 Fax: (416) 251-3720
email: brians@itf.ca website: www.visualed.com

The Arts: Fine Art

An Artist of the Grand: Journey Through Festival Country

(Canadian Millennium Series)

Documenting her festival visits from Dundalk to Port Maitland, Shirley McCallan Topoiniski's paintings evoke the history and spirit of the Grand River Valley and its people.

60 min. 2001/TVOntario

Order #BPN778404

Price: Please Enquire

Art in the Twenty-First Century Series

At the dawn of the 21st century, American artists are taking self-expression and the artistic process into uncharted territory. Using a variety of media and techniques, drawing on sources ranging from pop culture and politics to ethnic heritage and classical models to deeply personal life experiences, today's artists are engaging the world in vital and surprising new ways. In an unprecedented look at the shape and direction of art in contemporary America, this program invites viewers to meet 21 emerging and established artists, to see how they work and to hear them discuss what their art is about and what they hope to accomplish.

Ep. 1: Place - With an introduction and video art by Laurie Anderson, this program considers the influence of place - physical, conceptual or psychological; regional, national or transnational.

Ep. 2: Spirituality - Addresses the continuing examination of the spiritual in art and life.

Ep. 3: Identity - With an introduction created by Steve Martin and William Wegman, "Who am I?" and "Who are we?" in a pluralistic, multicultural world.

Ep. 4: Consumption - With an introduction by John McEnroe in a video created by Barbara Kruger, the second half of this program turns its eye on the influences a consumerist society and pop culture exert on contemporary art and vice-versa.

4 x 60 min. (on 1 tape) 2001/PBS

Order #ARTFDX0

Price: \$219

The Art of Michelangelo (1475-1564)

Michelangelo Buonarroti was the master of the Italian Renaissance. A sculptor, painter, architect, engineer and poet, it is Michelangelo who best represents the fully rounded creative individual spirit known as "the Renaissance Man".

23 min. 1999/Lucerne Order #MIC202

Price: \$225

Baroque Art and Architecture

The Baroque visual style, extravagant and theatrical, provided a grand background for court life between 1600 and 1750.

The genius of Bernini created energetic sculptural wonders and monumental architecture. Borromini filled Rome with undulating facades. In painting, Caravaggio and Carracci inspired artists such as Rubens, the early Rembrandt and Tiepolo, the quintessential Baroque painter.

23 min. 1999/Lucerne Order #BAR202

Price: \$195

Discovery of Art Series I

This informative and visually spectacular series presents an in-depth look at some of the greatest works of art created from medieval times to the present. The result of advanced research and documentation, these programs enable viewers to witness the unraveling of the artists' motivations, their emotional attachment to their work, and much more.

Anne of Brittany: Great Books of Hours

In the Middle Ages, the golden books of hours - personalized prayer books - were jealously guarded by their owners. Queen Anne of Brittany commissioned the master, Jean Bourdichon, to produce her book. He began in 1505, and the completed version in 1508 was truly remarkable. 63 magnificent paintings, each containing over 300 different species of plants that decorate the pages. This unique program reveals the true colors and the intricate gold inlay work contained in Queen Anne's great Book of Hours.

Order #2055

Books and Kings

Filmed at the French National Library, this video records the first public viewing of their ancient book collection - more than 60 of the most precious works owned by royalty - revealing astonishing books, bindings, and armoured clasps. These exceptional works testify to the extreme refinement of printing of the 15th and 16th centuries, and marked the transition from the religious and aristocratic age to the Renaissance period.

Order #2056

Botticelli: The Humanist Trilogy

Botticelli was one of the leading painters of the Florentine Renaissance. He developed a highly personal style characterized by elegance of execution, a sense of melancholy, and a strong emphasis on line. He spent almost all of his life working for the great families of Florence, especially the Medici. This program examines three of Botticelli's most famous masterpieces: *Primavera*, *Pallas and the Centaur*, and *Birth of Venus*.

Order #2051

Pablo Picasso's Guernica

Guernica is without question one of the most famous paintings in the world. In 1937 Picasso created this monumental oil painting to memorialize the tragedy of the German air bombardment of the Spanish town of Guernica. He requested that the painting be returned to Spain once democracy had been restored. It now resides in the Prado Museum.

Order #2050

Paintings in Books

Features 240 manuscripts of French illuminations from 1430 to 1520, an exceptionally rich period in French art history when a great number of artists appeared. Their activity was no longer restricted to Paris, as it was in the previous century. This program highlights the masterpieces, and presents the brilliant colours and gilding with unequalled fidelity.

Order #2053

Vermeer: The Magical Light

The works of Dutch painter Jan Vermeer recorded the effects of light with a delicacy and purity of colour that probably has never been surpassed. He is most noted for capturing sunlit domestic interiors in which one of the figures is engaged in reading, writing, or playing a musical instrument. Vermeer was forgotten after his death and was not rediscovered until the late 19th century. Today he is considered one the greatest Dutch painters of all time. Only 35 of Vermeer's canvases have survived, many of which are featured in this program. Commentary by the noted French art critic, Pierre Descargues.

Order #2052

6 x 45 min. 2000/Kultur

Series Order #S0002526

Unit Price: \$109

Series Price: \$449

The Discovery of Art Series II

As with Series I, this informative and visually spectacular series presents an in-depth look at some of the greatest works of art created from medieval times to the present. These programs enable viewers to witness the unraveling of the artists' motivations and their emotional attachment to their work.

Leonardo Da Vinci

Leonardo Da Vinci was a painter, architect, engineer, inventor, mathematician, philosopher, and visionary. From his 40-year career only a few works remain. This program presents rare reproductions of his art, as well as his inventions that were 400 years ahead of their time.

Order #2105

Eugene Delacroix

Eugene Delacroix was the foremost painter of the Romantic Movement in France, and was particularly influential as a colourist. His first major work, *The Bark of Dante*, brought him recognition as a leader of the opposition to the neoclassical school of David. Delacroix is best known for his dramatic interpretations of scenes from mythology, religion and literary history.

Order #2107

Michelangelo

Michelangelo was one of the greatest artists of the Renaissance. He was a talented painter and sculptor, as well as being a poet. This informative program presents the life of Michelangelo, and features many of his most famous works, including his supreme masterpiece, the Sistine Chapel.

Order #2106

Maxfield Parrish

Maxfield Parrish, one of the greatest painters of the 20th century, is primarily known as an illustrator for magazine covers, and also as a poster artist and muralist. His romantic landscapes are marked by brilliant colours and decorative treatment.

Order #2110

Kurt Schwitters

Kurt Schwitters is generally acknowledged as the twentieth century's greatest master of collage. He found himself at the forefront of contemporary art and allied himself with the avant-garde, including various Dada groups. Throughout his turbulent life, Schwitters stood his ground with his non-elitist creation of *Merz*, which laid the groundwork for Pop Art and post-modernism.

Order #2109

Henri Toulouse-Lautrec

Toulouse-Lautrec's life was transformed by his discovery of Montmartre in Paris. He devoted his artistic talent to painting this unique microcosm, with its intriguing blend of the vulgar and the aristocratic.

He was both an acute observer and a participant in the life of the district.

Order #2108

6 x 50 min. 2000/Kultur

Series Order #S0002525

Unit Price: \$109

Series Price: \$449

The Great Artists: The Impressionists Series

This series chronicles the life, times, and works of each featured artist and explores their stylistic trademarks. The programs also place each artist in historical context, highlighting the events that were inspirational to their work, providing a much clearer understanding into the creative process. This collection provides an in-depth look into the fascinating world of the Impressionists and their art

Monet

It was Claude Monet's *Impression Soleil Levant* that gave the Impressionist school its name. Famed for seeing the subtle nuances of colour, light, and atmosphere in landscape, Monet's great works include *Haystacks* and *Waterlilies*. This program features footage from L'Orangerie and from Monet's house and gardens at Giverny, plus special footage shot at London's Savoy Hotel, from where Monet painted his famous views of London.

Order #7031

Degas

Profoundly influenced by the Renaissance painters, Edgar Degas pioneered precision of line and the use of the human form in space within the Impressionist school.

A Paris-born pupil of Ingres, Degas produced such masterpieces as *Rehearsal of the Ballet* and *The Cotton Exchange*.

Order #7031

Renoir

Arguably the greatest of all the Impressionist artists, Pierre August Renoir's brilliant *Le Moulin de la Galette* created immense controversy in its day. Famous for his use of hot reds, orange and gold to portray nudes in sunlight, Renoir's later life was blighted by arthritis, which crippled his hands.

The video includes a visit to the artist's home Cagnes-sur-Mer on the island of La Grenouillere.

Order #7033

Pissarro

Details the life and work of Camille Pissarro, the West-Indian born leader of the original Impressionists and the only artist from that school to exhibit at all eight of the exhibitions from 1874 to 1886. A considerable influence on Cezanne and Gauguin at the beginning of their careers, Pissarro's great works include the famous *Boulevard Montmartre* that hangs today in the National Gallery, London.

Order #7034

Seurat

An entertaining and informative profile of Georges Pierre Seurat, the inventor of the technique known as Pointillism, in which a whole picture is made up of tiny rectangles of pure color which merge together when viewed from afar. Seurat completed only seven canvasses in this hugely complex technique, including the superb *Une Baignade*.

Order #7035

Manet

Details the life of one of the art world's most colourful characters. A true maverick and a highly controversial figure in his day, Edouard Manet became a father figure to the Impressionist movement because of his stand against the restrictions and conventions of the French salon. Manet's work included the famous *A Bar At The Folies-Bergeres*. Despite acceptance by the establishment late in his life, he died a bitter man.

Order #7036

6 x 50 min. 1996/Kultur

Series Order #S0002537

Unit Price: \$109

Series Price: \$449

Great Tales in Asian Art

Filmed on location, four beloved stories of India, Indonesia, Korea and Japan are told through the masterpieces of visual art and the stirring performances these tales have inspired for centuries. Using many visuals such as sculptures and paintings, these tales come alive right before your eyes! This program is an imaginative and entertaining introduction to the art of Asia. 82 min. 2001/Kultur Order #1461 Price: \$249

Leonardo Da Vinci

(Genius Series)

An in-depth look at the incredible life of this amazing genius who was an artist, sculptor, architect and engineer. Leonardo's legacy contains masterpieces of art, as well as notebooks containing original thoughts on astronomy, biology and physiology.

50 min. 2001/Kultur Order #7112

Price: \$109

Master of Sea and Sail

A visually spectacular and informative look at the work of 17th century Dutch marine artists and their portrayals of life on or near the sea. Works by such Dutch masters as Rembrandt and Vermeer provide invaluable glimpses into the life of that period. Included are works Vroom, Porcellis, de Vlieger and many others. Along with tracing the development of the art of seascapes, this program provides a rich account of one of the most colourful periods in Dutch history.

45 min. 2001/Kultur Order #1888

Price: \$249

Visions From the Wilderness: The Art of Paul Kane

In 1846, landscape and portrait artist Paul Kane hitched a ride west to document what he believed were the last Native Americans that remained "untainted" by European influence. Upon returning to his Toronto studio two years later, however, he largely embraced the prevailing Eurocentric idea of the "Noble Savage" in both his romanticized paintings and the book he wrote about his travels.

Visions from the Wilderness brings to life Paul Kane's epic journey and his later struggle as a society artist with dramatic re-creations and interviews with curators, historians, artists, Kane descendants, and the native people he sketched and painted. This program examines the conflicting opinions about the historic and artistic value of Kane's work - revealing the role that artists play in relaying our history, and how their art is shaped by the cultural influences of their time. Narrated by acclaimed North American native actor, Tantoo Cardinal (*Dances with Wolves*). 50 min. 2002/Kultur Order #2245 Price: \$109

The Arts: General Culture Shock Series

This four-part documentary series tells the story of classic works of art in literature, music, film and painting, that have engendered both controversy and acclaim. Each program examines the cultural conditions, past and present, that lead artists to create and audiences to react.

Born to Trouble: Adventures of Huckleberry Finn
Order #CULS103

The Devil's Music: 1920s Jazz
Order #CULS102

Hollywood Censored: Movies Morality & the Hollywood Pro Code
Order #CULS103

The Shock of the Nude: Manet's Olympia
Order #CULS104
4 x 60 min. 2000/PBS Series Order #S0002364
Unit Price: \$165
Series Price: \$550

Film Study: Acting & Directing

Acting One, Day One

Best-selling theatre textbook author Robert Cohen describes and illustrates his hour basic principles of acting. He employs a simple exercise in which students first recite the American Pledge of Allegiance, then learn to act this text as part of a dramatic situation. These four points (Goal, Other People, Tactics, Expectations) are an essential starting point for the study of all acting methods and styles.

35 min. 2001/First Light Order #FLV981
Price: \$139

Creative Drama and Improvisation

Host Rives Collins of Northwest University leads a lively group of students through a dozen theater games and improvisational exercises. Collins emphasizes spontaneous response, visualization and especially divergent thinking. These exercises will give students invaluable tools for warm-up, rehearsal, self-exploration and character development.

110 min. 2001/First Light Order #FLV648
Price: \$179

Mime Over Matter

Jodi Ray Lynn, performer and mime instructor, can lead one person or a full class through these easy to follow mime illusions. Includes; introduction to mime, exaggerated action, sections of the body, the lean, inclinations, rotations, the sit, isolations, the wall, breaking down movement, the rope and creating a mime piece. Specifically designed as a student participation video that will encourage creativity.

101 min. 2001/First Light Order #FLV974
Price: \$179

Film Study: Film/ Video & Television Production

Conducting Light

Presented by Lighting Designer David Cuthbert, this program takes the hassle out of demonstrating the “how to’s” of stage lighting. Subjects covered include basic stage lighting equipment, cabling, hanging and focusing procedures, lighting accessories, essential maintenance, colour media, color temperature area lighting and safety.

30 min. 2001/First Light Order #FLV982
Price: \$179

Floor Managing a TV Drama

This program shows the duties and responsibilities of a senior floor manager, both in the studio and on location.

34 min. 2001/First Light Order #FLV706
Price: \$129

The Making of the ‘MMM’ Commercial

The first TV commercial for the new FM radio station “MMM” is historically one of the most interesting and technically brilliant pieces of visual advertising ever seen. Students are introduced to the technical elements of concept development, complex animation, special visual effects and light manipulation, together with a shot-by-shot explanation of how the commercial was made.

40 min. 2001/First Light Order #FLV961
Price: \$129

The Nike TV Commercial

Every aspect of a NIKE ad is dissected to reveal the extraordinary path of the making of a TV commercial. The creative director of the advertising agency explains the thinking behind the commercial – the analyses and strategy used to achieve the effect they wanted – and an explanation of the production itself.

33 min. 2001/First Light Order #FLV962
Price: \$139

The Video Toolbox: How To Make a Video Program

A fast moving, energetic and humorous overview of the video production process. Graphics, animation, practical advice and technical tips are interwoven with two case studies (a documentary and a “road movie”) to create an entertaining and informative program. Practical follow-up activities are suggested at the end of each major segment. Video Toolbox shows in detail how to develop a CONCEPT, the principles behind SCRIPT WRITING, how to plan THE SHOOT, the role of the DIRECTOR, the basics of SCREEN LANGUAGE, SHOT COVERAGE and finally the key concepts of EDITING.

70 min. 1994/First Light Order #FLV801
Price: \$239

Film Study: Journalism Media on Trial: Story of the Storytellers

Documents media coverage of the Oklahoma City Bombing Trials. It analyzes many of the media practices that draw intense criticism, including the differences between tabloid and mainstream coverage; impacts of judicial cooperation; reporter objectivity; journalist emotions; sources and spin; victim and jury treatment; the media swarm; legal analysis; competitive pressures; organizational versus individual motivations for styles of coverage; print and broadcast cooperation; coverage ground rules; technology impacts; public and governmental reactions to efforts to improve the media image and more. This program is especially suited for journalism, communication and media ethics courses.

56 min. 2001/First Light Order #FLV987
Price: \$199

Film Study: General A Galaxy Far, Far Away

investigates the pop-culture phenomenon generated by George Lucas’s *Star Wars* films, one which reached new peaks of excitement in the Spring of 1999, when the date for the theatrical premiere of the series’ ‘prequel’, *The Phantom Menace*, was announced. As *Star Wars* fans all over the country began lining up at movie theatres weeks prior to its opening, the filmmakers began documenting the frenzy in an attempt to understand the mysterious appeal of these films. In addition to interviewing hundreds of devoted fans - including many who remained in line for forty-two days in order to get a ticket to the premiere screening - they also spoke with film industry executives (including producer Roger Corman and story analyst Christopher Vogler), *Star Wars* convention attendees, collectors lined up for a midnight opening of a Toys ‘R’ Us outlet selling action figures from the new film, as well as celebrities such as Joe Pesci, Andy Garcia, and Meat Loaf. More than just a geek show, however, *A Galaxy Far, Far Away* offers real insights into why the *Star Wars* films have generated a powerful and widespread cultural appeal that crosses racial, gender and generational lines.

72 min. 2001/Cinema Guild Order #GALF001
Price: \$349

Film Study: Script Writing Making A Good Script Great Series

Creating Unforgettable Characters

Audiences remember characters “characters that breathe,” “characters that are larger than life” and “characters that are rich, exciting and dimensional.” The ability to create memorable characters can make the difference between the success or failure of your project. This program teaches how to create the character’s world to make it “ring true” so that audiences understand and identify with it, create multi-dimensional and realistic characters and create strong character relationships that pull the audience into the action. Detailed guide book included.

Order #FLV970

Expressing the Theme

Ideal for producers, executives and writers, "Exploring the Theme" is a three part program that illustrates the concepts through referring to both classical and contemporary film. Subjects covered include: what is a theme, four ways to find your theme and four ways to communicate your theme. Detailed guide book included. Order #FLV971

Structuring the Story

Provides an invaluable tool for screenwriters of any age and shows what it takes to make a script both artistic and well crafted and ways to use structure to support your personal vision. If you're writing your first script, this video will help develop your skills for telling a dramatic and compelling story. If you're a veteran screenwriter, this video will articulate the skills you know intuitively and if you're currently stuck on a re-write, this video will help you analyze and solve the problems and get your script back on track. Detailed guide book included.

Order #FLV969

3 x 30 min. 2001/First Light

Series Order #S0002491

Unit Price: \$139

Series Price: \$329

Literature

The Cafeteria

Starring Bob Dishy and Zohra Lampert. Based on Isaac Bashevis Singe's poignant short story, this film transports us into the world of a 1960's New York cafeteria and the isolated people who find one another. It explores the relationship of a successful writer, who is a European-born refugee, who meets and is fascinated by a young woman, also a refugee and a survivor.

53 min. 2000/Monterey Order #CAF252

Price: \$99.95

Cat on a Hot Tin Roof

By Tennessee Williams. Starring Jessica Lange, Tommy Lee Jones, Rip Torn, Kim Stanley. Gathering for the birthday of a wealthy southern patriarch, the secrets and passions of each family member is forced into the open as it is discovered that "Big Daddy" is dying and the disposition of his wealth may as yet be undetermined.

144 min. 2000/Monterey Order #CAT252

Price: \$99.95

Emily Dickinson: A Certain Slant of Light

Actress Julie Harris takes us inside Emily Dickinson's family home in Amherst, Mt. Holyoke Seminary, and the world outside her window, in this insight into one of the world's favourite authors.

30 min. 1996/Monterey Order #EMI251

Price: \$79

First Person Singular: Elie Wiesel

Nobel Peace Prize laureate Elie Wiesel reflects upon his life, his work and his concerns for the future of mankind. The celebrated author of the Holocaust memoir *Night* reveals how he reconstructed his life after surviving Auschwitz to enter a world of writing, teaching and campaigning tirelessly against threats to human rights throughout the world. He presents a warm and lively account of his experiences as a journalist in Paris and Jerusalem; of his authorship of more than 40 novels, plays and essays.

60 min. 2002/PBS Order #ELIW101

Price: \$165

The Legend of King Arthur Series

This informative series delves into the distant past in search of the facts surrounding The Knights of the Round Table and the Search for the Holy Grail. Who was Arthur? Where was Camelot? **Features include:** authentic re-creations and reconstructions, new footage from Arthurian sites all over Britain, great art inspired by the legend, classic Arthurian images, the very latest theories and findings, world renowned Arthurian authorities, new evidence and the latest claims.

In Search of King Arthur

Explores the phenomenon of Arthur, from his shadowy fifth century origins as a British war leader to the very perfect medieval king.

Order #7151

In Search of Merlin

Merlin is forever linked in our minds to King Arthur. Yet, until the twelfth century, they existed as folk-tales, as separate, independent characters with no connection whatsoever. With aid of expert analysis, this program attempts to trace the origins of Merlin, the master illusionist.

Order #7152

Camelot

According to one version of the Arthurian story, King Arthur loved Camelot above all other cities that he owned. This video explores the myth of Camelot, examining historical and archaeological evidence, it seeks to uncover whether Camelot really did exist.

Order #7153

3 x 50 min. 2002/Kultur

Series Order #S0002522

Unit Price: \$109

Series Price: \$249

Peter Gzowski: The Writer on the Radio

A chronicle of the last days of "Morningside", but more so a biography of the show's host. Normally, a private man, Peter Gzowski reflects on his background, particularly his famous ancestor and his relationship with his mother. We meet his children and colleagues past and present.

44 min. 1997/90th Parallel

Order #PET301

Price: \$99

Performing Arts: Dance

Erik Bruhn

Erik Bruhn was one of the greatest dancers of our time. This program is a uniquely personal portrait containing candid and revealing interviews with the artist, as well as featuring many never-before-seen film clips with fellow dancers Rudolf Nureyev, Margot Fonteyn, Carla Fracci and many others.

45 min. 2002/Kultur Order #2196

Price: \$109

Swan Lake

This spectacular production was filmed lived in Russia at the Maryinsky Theatre. Prima ballerina Galina Mezentseva gives a memorable performance in the dual role of Odette/Odile, and Konstantin Zaklinsky portrays Prince Siegfried.

144 min. 1992/Kultur Order #1475

Price: \$109

Performing Arts: Music

The International Sweethearts of Rhythm

Tells the story of the multi-racial, all women's jazz band of the 1940s, which featured some of the best female musicians of the day. Although they were stars at theatres and clubs around the country, as a racially integrated band in the South the Sweethearts traveled, ate and slept in a bus because segregation laws prevented them from using restaurants and hotels. Interviews with surviving members of the band are interwoven with archival footage and photos, and musical performances
30 min. 1986/Cinema Guild
Order #INT250
Price: \$215

Paul Anka - The Music Man

This authorized biography of one of music's most extraordinary talents traces Paul Anka's early beginnings as a teen idol singer to becoming a sought-after songwriter and performer.
52 min. 2000/Kultur Order #3029
Price: \$109

Jazz

A ten-part, nearly nineteen-hour documentary series that celebrates America's greatest original art form, a music whose improvisational spirit perfectly reflects the nation that gave it birth. It is the first series ever to tell the story of jazz. Beginning with the birth of jazz at the dawn of the Twentieth Century, the film incorporates the wide range of American culture and historical events that interact directly with the music.
999 min. 2000/PBS Order #JAZZ000
Price: \$550

Performing Arts: Opera

Don Giovanni

Recorded at Glyndebourne's superb new opera house, Deborah Warner's enthralling production of *Don Giovanni* sets Mozart's fiery opera in modern dress in the 20th century. It is the composer's most overtly sexual opera, and tells the story of a compulsive seducer, who schemes, lies and murders to gratify his lust, before being dragged off to hell. The work, memorable for its melodic beauty and dramatic power, has held the stage since its first performance in 1787. Performers: Renato Bruson, Gilles Cachemaille, Adrienne Pieczonka. (English Subtitled).
175 min. 1999/Kultur Order #2032
Board Price: \$109

Luciano Pavarotti

This is the long-awaited video of the sold-out concert Luciano Pavarotti gave at the magnificent Olympia Hall in Munich, West Germany. The world's greatest tenor thrills the audience by singing many of his greatest arias and songs including his famous interpretation of *Vesti la giubba* as well as his popular favourite *Mamma*. Pavarotti responds to the encore calls by singing such favourites as *O sole mio* and *Torno a Sorrento*. Since He made his U.S. debut in Miami during the 1965 season as Edgardo in *Lucia di Lammermoor* opposite Joan Sutherland. Pavarotti toured Australia with Dame Joan and then went on to Europe, making his premiere performances at La Scala, Covent Garden and in Rome.
60 min. 1988/Kultur Order #1229
Price: \$249

Theatre Arts

Brother Bread, Sister Puppet

The Bread and Puppet Theater has become famous over the past thirty years for its street theatre and political satire utilizing giant papier-mâché puppets, masks and twelve-foot-high stilt walkers. The video showcases performance highlights and discusses the group's theatrical concepts and artistic philosophy.
60 min. 1993/Cinema Guild Order #BRO100
Price: \$395

Puppetry: Worlds of Imagination

This documentary surveys the revolutionary new developments in American puppet theatre, profiling many of puppetry's most imaginative contemporary artists, including Basil Twist, who uses bits of fabric, feathers, plastic and other materials in a 1,000-gallon tank of water to create a visually stunning underwater ballet musically accompanied by Berlioz's *Symphonie Fantastique*; Ralph Lee, founder of the famous Greenwich Village Hallowe'en Parade, discusses his current work designing figures for ballets and symphony orchestras and we see excerpts from his own theatre company's production, which employs puppets as vehicles for the exploration of supernatural myths and legends; Michael Curry discusses the masks and puppets he created for the Broadway production of *The Lion King*, as well as the Super Bowl, the Olympics and the Millennium Celebration in New York City; Cheryl Henson, daughter of Jim (The Muppets) Henson, discusses the biannual Jim Henson International Festival of Puppet Theatre as we see excerpts of some of these innovative presentations; we also visit the puppetry program at the California Institute of the Arts, including one of puppeteer Janie Geiser's classes. The video concludes by discussing the new directions and new ideas in puppetry and the ways it is transforming opera, music, theatre and dance.
Directed by Joshua Malkin
44 min. 2001/Cinema Guild Order #PUP001
Price: \$315

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